

GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY **WORKING GROUP JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

The Solicitor-General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice Abdullahi Ahmed Yola and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Maria Otero met in Abuja to hold discussions on the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission Working Group on Good Governance, Transparency, and Integrity on May 26-27, 2010 and issued the following joint communiqué:

Recognizing the importance of free, fair and credible elections and the improvement of governance structures as vital to overall progress and prosperity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Government of the United States of America reiterate their commitment to the continued democratic development of Nigeria.

They received input and suggestions from civil society, state governors, and private sector partners on Good Governance, Transparency, and Integrity.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is committed to maintaining a fully independent electoral commission capable of conducting credible State and Federal elections; transparent counting of votes at polling stations; collaborating with civil society and providing voter registration education to Nigerian Citizens through the mass media and the Internet.

Both countries recognize the importance of an active, engaged civil society and the need to build voter confidence as key parts of enhancing good governance in Nigeria. To this end, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is committed to granting accreditation in a timely manner to a large number of civil society observers, both domestic and international, to observe the conduct of the elections in every state. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria also confirms that votes are to be counted at


polling stations in a transparent manner in the presence of observers and other stakeholders and are to release polling station results in a timely manner. The United States of America is committed to training civil society organizations to effectively observe the elections.

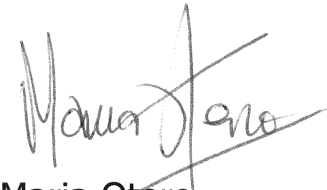
The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is committed to combating corruption and all forms of economic crimes in Nigeria and to collaborating with the United States to advance investigations and prosecutions of suspects. To this end, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has requested technical assistance and training for investigators and prosecutors of corruption and other economic crime cases.

Both countries commit to build the capacity of anti-corruption agencies on economic and financial crimes, namely: Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), Police, and the Ministry of Justice. Nigeria will submit a list of the permanent staff of the aforementioned agencies to build on existing training. The United States of America will provide technical assistance to these agencies.

Both countries will propose to meet again in the coming months in Washington, DC to review progress towards achieving free, fair, and credible elections, as well as the status of electoral assistance.

Both countries also plan to meet on June 10-11 in Washington, DC to launch the BNC Energy and Investment Working Group.


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